



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Christopher J. SMITH)
Application No.: 09/712,302)
Filed: November 14, 2000)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO)
PERFORM BUY VERSUS LEASING)
TRANSFORMATIONAL BIDDING)

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

#2/a
S. Calhoun
4-19-01
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APR X 5 2001

Technology Center 2100

March 28, 2001
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 11, please amend lines 9-13 as follows:

Fig. 5 illustrates a bid transformation function; and

a1
Figs. 6A-6C illustrate bid history charts based upon buyer and supplier viewpoints[; and].

[Fig. 7 illustrates a block flow diagram of a transformation process for a leasing versus buying scenario in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.]

Please amend the paragraphs that begin on page 31, line 4, and end on page 31, line 18, as follows:

a2
[Fig. 7 illustrates a block flow diagram of a transformation process for a leasing versus buying scenario in] In accordance with one embodiment, [of the invention. This embodiment of] the invention applies the transformation function described with respect to Figs. 1-6 above to the problem of buying versus leasing comparisons. Although [Fig. 7 and other] the figures presented herein may include a particular sequence of steps, it can be appreciated that the sequence of steps merely provides an example of how the general functionality described herein can be implemented. Further, each sequence of steps does not have to be executed in the order presented unless otherwise indicated.

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